

Message Text

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61

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 OFA-01 PM-03 COME-00

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R 171516Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0354

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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DEPT PASS NSF POLAR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, AR

SUBJ: FIELD GEOLOGIST

REF: A. NR 77 (NOTAL); B. LLANO/TURNER-WILCOX TELCON MAR 14

1. LAST WEEK, PRIOR TO RECEIPT REF A, EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED CALL FROM DR. VICENTE H. PADULA, DIRECTOR OF SERVICIO NACIONAL MINERO GEOLOGICO (SNMG) INQUIRING ABOUT BRUHAN. PADULA HAD RECEIVED CABLE FROM TIERRA DEL FUEGO POLICE ASKING IF BRUHAN WAS WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH SNMG. WE HAD TO INFORM HIM THAT, ALTHOUGH WE KNEW BRUHAN HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICE ON EARLIER OCCASION AND UNDERSTOOD HE WOULD BE INVOLVED IN FUTURE HERO CRUISE, WE HAD NO DETAILS OF HIS PRESENT WORK NOR DID WE KNOW OF ANY OFFICIAL USG SPONSORSHIP.

2. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REF A, SCICOUNS CALLED PADULA TO INFORM HIM THAT BURHAN WAS LAMONT EMPLOYEE, THAT WORK HAD NSF SUPPORT, AND TO INQUIRE ABOUT HIS PRESENT UNDERSTANDING OF STATUS. PADULA SAID THAT DR. ROBERTO CAMINOS OF SNMG HAD WORKED JOINTLY WITH BRUHAN ON AN EARLIER EXPEDITION. THIS TIME, CAMINOS HAD RECEIVED LETTER ABOUT BRUHANS PLANS, BUT HAD BEEN OUT OF BUENOS AIRES WHEN BRUHAN CAME THROUGH. SNMG THEREFORE HAD NO DIRECT INVOLVMENT IN BRUHANS CURRENT WORK.

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PADULA HAD SO ADVISED THE TIERRA DEL FUEGO AUTHORITIES.

3. PADULA POINTED OUT THAT ALL OF PATAGONIA (INCLUDING TIERRA DEL FUEGO) COMES UNDER A LAW WHICH DESIGNATES IT AS A KIND OF "NATIONAL RESERVE" AND LIMITS PROSPECTION AND GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH TO THE SNMG.

4. A FURTHER COMPLICATING FACTOR WHICH SEEMS IMPORTANT TO PADULA IS THAT THERE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN SOME PRESS REPORT TO EFFECT THAT LAMONT HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN SENDING GEOLOGICAL REPORTS TO LONDON ABOUT PETROLEUM PROSPECTS NEAR THE FALKLANDS (MALVINAS). (COMMENT: THIS IS A POLITICAL HOT POTATO HERE.)

5. GIVEN ABOVE, WE DID NOT TRY TO CONTACT VALENCIO, SINCE IT SEEMS ACADEMIC WHETHER OR NOT HE WAS INVOLVED IN WORKING WITH BRUHAN.

6. WE UNDERSTAND FROM REF TEL CON B THAT BURHAN'S DIFFICULTY IS IN COLLECTION AND SENDING ROCK SAMPLES. THIS APPEARS HAVE NO RELATION WITH PROPOSED HERO CRUISE 75-2, HENCE SHOULD NOT PREVENT HIS PARTICIPATION THEREIN. (CRUISES 75-2 AND 75-3 PRESENT PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, AS REPORTED SEPTTEL). OF COURSE, WE SURMISE THAT THERE MAY WELL BE A CONNECTION VIA THE NATURE OF HIS GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

7. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SUGGEST THAT NSF ADVISE LDGO TO HAVE BRUHAN CONTACT SNMG AND EMBASSY TO SEE IF SOME WAY CAN BE FOUND FOR HIM TO CONTINUE WORKING. GIVEN POOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN HERE AND USHUAIA, WOULD SUGGEST THAT HE COME TO BUENOS AIRES IF POSSIBLE TO LINE EVERYTHING UP. SCICOUNS WOULD BE PLEASED TO ADVISE BURHAN AND ACCOMPANY ON HIS VISIT TO SNMG.
HILL

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